



DHS Today via E-mail

May 17, 2001

If you're not using the Direct Deposit method of getting paid each payday, now might be a good time to think about doing it.

Among the changes coming to state government due to the new administrative management system called the Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System, or AASIS, is a change in the way state employees get paid.

Effective July 1, 2001, all state payroll checks will be mailed to employees at their home address rather than being distributed at the workplace. Paychecks will be mailed on Thursdays. This change is necessary to ensure an accurate state payroll, rather than a payroll containing estimated hours. Direct Deposits will also be made on Thursdays.



Specific information regarding the new payroll timeline will be sent to employees. Direct Deposit saves employees both time and money and is a guarantee against slow or delayed mail. It also saves employers like the State of Arkansas and, ultimately, all of us as taxpayers time and money. It may be hard to believe, but nearly \$33 billion is spent each year in the U.S. on printing, issuing, sorting and mailing checks. It makes financial sense to use Direct Deposit whenever possible. In the coming months you'll be seeing additional information on how to enroll in the Direct Deposit program.



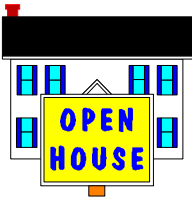
The Office of Fiscal Management is pleased to announce the addition of the "Financial Events Calendar" and "Financial Contacts" information to DHSGOLD, the DHS Intranet site. Take a moment to view this new addition. OFM will post current and upcoming events so that the OFM staff can better coordinate with program divisions.

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Dozens of people found jobs as a result of the recent fourth annual Lincoln County Job Fair held in Star City. The fair was designed, in part, to help people on Transitional Employment Assistance find employment, but anyone in the county and surrounding area was welcomed to attend the event which has grown larger each year. Nearly 700 people looking for jobs or information came to the fair.



This year, representatives from 44 employers and schools came to interview job seekers on the spot or accept applications. In addition to TEA recipients and traditional job seekers, students from local high schools also attended to find jobs or learn about career opportunities.



The Independence County DHS Office and Health Unit are holding an open house at their new facility that they share. The open house will be held from 2–3:30 p.m. on May 18, 2001 at the office located on Weaver Street (Harrison Street/Hwy 69 East) in Batesville. The DHS and DOH staff moved into their brand new office space about six weeks ago. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to come.

The Division of Aging and Adult Services is seeking nominations to the Senior Arkansans Hall of Fame for 2001. Three outstanding older people will be inducted into the Hall of Fame during an awards luncheon at the annual Arkansas Aging Conference on August 3, 2001. The event at the Hot Springs Civic and Convention Center is a special way to give public recognition to an older Arkansan who works hard on behalf of other seniors.

Nominations must be submitted to the Division of Aging and Adult Services on an official nomination form by June 18. Nominees will be judged on the activities they have performed to help the quality of life for older Arkansans. Nomination details are printed on the form. Forms are available from each Area Agency on Aging, every senior center and the Division of Aging and Adult Services.

The Senior Arkansans Hall of Fame was created in 1991 by the 78th General Assembly to honor the significant contributions of older Arkansans.

To request a nomination form or to get more information, contact **Diane Broadway** at the Division of Aging and Adult Services (501) 682-2441.

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The DYS Outstanding Employee of Central Office for May is **Cindy Fulton**. Cindy is an Administrative Assistant II in the Support Services Section of Central Office. Cindy has 24 years of service to DHS. Her supervisor, **Jerry Evans**, nominated her. Jerry says that Cindy is one of those individuals for whom he is thankful for each and every day. She does the work of three people every day and still finds time to get the work done, and done right. Cindy's major contribution at DYS has been her helpful attitude, which tends to be contagious. Her articulation, both verbal and written, is a special skill at which she consistently performs above her grade level. She also has the ability to review information and bring any inconsistencies to light. Jerry states that Cindy is one of the best of the best at DYS and the job she performs is outstanding in every respect.

Cindy is married to **Dan Fulton**, who works in the Office of Chief Counsel. She enjoys reading in her spare time. She also loves to dance with Dan and spend time with her 2-year-old grandson, **Griffin**.

Emanuel Thompson is another DYS Outstanding Employee for May. He is a Youth Service Worker I at the J.U.M.P. Serious Offender Program. Emmanuel has more than 13 years of state government employment. Emmanuel's supervisor, **Brent Moore**, says that, "he always brings stability to the units and resolves inner unit conflicts in a safe manner." He also states that, "He has an excellent talent of being a good listener and a provider of good sound problem solving techniques." Mr. Thompson is always ready to render assistance when needed or called upon. He volunteers to stay over to work at the unit when staff shortages are a problem. He will go the extra to make sure that the job is done correctly. He also gives up some days off to help on the units.

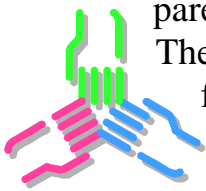


On his off time Emmanuel is an active volunteer for the local drug and rehab center. He also enjoys playing sports, gardening and reading autobiographies.

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An innovative Division of Children and Family Services program that has been piloted in Pulaski County for about a year will be presented to a national conference this summer.

DCFS Community Support Program Manager **Shirlee Flanigan-Isbell** and **DeeAnn Newell**, a prevention coordinator who works for the Centers for Youth and Families have collaborated on issues involving kinship care for more than two years. Kinship care is a living situation in which children live in a foster care home with relatives who care for them rather than their own immediate family. Shirlee developed the Alternative Caregivers Program for DCFS and DeeAnn facilitates the program in Pulaski County. The program assists these family caregivers, by offering counseling, parenting education, legal assistance and other needed resources.



The majority of the children's biological parents are unable to care for them due to incarceration and drug addiction. DeeAnn also presents parenting classes to several of these parents at the prison in Newport.

The program is currently serving 22 families in Pulaski County. Of these families, 21 consist of grandparents who are caring for their grandchildren. A few years ago the foster care rules were changed so relatives caring for children in kinship care situations could receive financial help as other foster families do. Before that, Shirlee said many families, especially grandparents, wanted to care for their grandchildren but didn't have the financial means to do it. Shirlee said, "DCFS either has to form community partnerships to help with kinship care issues or have more children come into the foster care system. And we don't have enough foster homes now." She said many of the issues kinship care families face are topics like knowing what their legal rights are and generational challenges such as grandparents understanding teenagers.

Shirlee and DeeAnn will present their research and program entitled, "Partnering for Services to Kinship Families," at the Child Welfare League of America's National Kinship Care Conference on July 27 in Chicago. They hope to expand the program to other counties when funding becomes available.

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(from left) Selena Ellis, DOV, Renisha Creal-Ward and Rev. Fred Arnold of the MFF Mentoring Program along with DHS Jefferson County Administrator Lee Turner show the invitation and some of the treats volunteers received at a recent recognition brunch.

More than 70 volunteers were honored recently at a recognition brunch held by the Methodist Faith and Families of Jefferson County Mentoring Program. The event was held in Pine Bluff where more than a dozen churches cooperate to bring the mentoring program to people who are making the transition from welfare to work. Mentors work one-on-one with Transitional Employment Assistance clients to help them move from dependence on welfare to independence

through employment. The program, which began in 1999, is one of 35 operating in Arkansas. Volunteers received a variety of tokens of appreciation for their volunteer time and were encouraged to remain volunteers and invite others they know to join the program. "There's never enough money to take care of peoples' needs and there's nothing more important than sharing information," said DHS Jefferson County Administrator **Lee Turner**. To become a mentor or to find out about beginning a mentoring program in your area, contact **Selena Ellis** at the DHS Division of Volunteerism, (501) 682-7851.



Do you have something you'd like to share in the newsletter? Send an email to Joyce.Williams@mail.state.ar.us. You can also fax items to (501) 682-6512 or call (501) 682-6580.